

said...I've given some of the same speeches that Senator Withem and Senator Lynch gave and Senator Chambers in different ways. And, Senator Chambers, I read the opinions. I quoted from them at least, I bet, eight times, read them right here on the floor, not only in special session but here. I'm in no hurry to deal with this. Had I been in town, I would have signed the lawsuit. I guess the question you have to ask yourself is, do you want to run that risk? I firmly believe that there is a real problem with our tax system. I'm not so sure that it gets much worse if you let the whole thing fall apart. I happen to Chair the Revenue Committee but...because you folks have given me that honor, the issue before us is, do we continue a system that we have dealt with over the last, at least, 20 years of allowing exemptions to exist? Carving out exemptions and I've been guilty of bringing in bills that deal with exemptions, not necessarily in the personal property tax area but in other areas, for special interest groups because I felt that they were worthy. I had no problem with Senator Lindsay's amendment that dealt with a three-fifths majority vote. I supported it. But, at this point in time, I don't know that I would buy the argument that anyone is rushing to anything. I surely am not. I don't...and I didn't take any of those comments...I didn't think they were directed at me. I don't think they were directed anywhere virtually inside the confines of this Chamber. But, like it or not, we have to deal with this stuff and we can deal with it now and we can deal with it sometime later this summer. We can deal with it next year, depending on when a decision comes. But deal with it we must. Senator Withem is absolutely right, he did bring in the constitutional amendment. He did pass it around to members of the committee and about the same time I think a light bulb went on over at the Governor's office. No, I won't say it. The problem here is one that I guess I haven't seen too many other grand ideas that have come up either and I'm not...I don't like to point fingers, can't point fingers. It's...it's just real interesting, I guess, to sit here and say the system doesn't work, we need to fix it, but we know good and well that we can't get the votes to fix it. Senator Withem has tried. Senator Lynch has tried. Senator Chambers has tried. I have tried. God knows I have tried but, I mean, I'm a wild-eyed urbanite who would tax just about anybody. And if I could do it uniformly, you damn straight I would because that would be the fairest way to do it. We'd get the lowest rates we could. And I talk about that all the time. I've given some of those speeches. I firmly believe that, hasn't changed my opinion on how we deal with this, not one bit.